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PAPERS

IN

MANUFACTURES.

MANUFACTURES.

THE univerſal ſatisfaction which the Letters of Miſs Rhodes, publiſhed in the fourth Volume of theſe Tranſactions, on the breeding and management of Silk Worms in England, have given, plainly ſhews how much the publick wiſh to ſee that deſirable end accompliſhed; and as the Society have been favoured with ſome further obſervations, on this head, by the ſame ingenious and attentive lady, as well as by the Rev. Mr. Swaine, of Pucklechurch, near Briſtol, whoſe judicious remarks on this ſubject, are contained in the following Letters, there is every reaſon to hope, the Time is not far diſtant, when, by plantations of Mulberry-trees, being made, and the management of the Worms carefully attended to, our manufacturers may be, in a great meaſure, ſupplied with Silk the produce of this country, and employment furniſhed to many poor in the younger part of their lives; by which habits of induſtry will ſpread among them, to the general advantage of the kingdom; and the common complaint of the want of proper employment for young women, and children, be in a great meaſure obviated.

The thanks of the Society were given to Miſs Rhodes, and to the Reverend Mr. Swaine, for theſe Communications.

SIR,

EQUALLY influenced by your requeſt, and the recollection of my own promiſe, I again renew the taſk on which the Society has beſtowed ſuch an high degree of attention, and approbation: And although in the proſecution of my ſcheme, I have experienced diſappointments which effectually exclude me from the prize my ambition led to, I cannot think myſelf totally unfortunate, ſince thoſe very diſappointments may ſupply the moſt uſeful hints to others, and, however paradoxical it may appear, are ſo many new proofs of the practicability of my plan.

I congratulate myſelf on your having ſeen my manufactory laſt ſummer, as you can witneſs the number of Silk Worms

I fed. I had calculated that thirty thouſand would produce me about five pounds of Silk, and at the time you ſaw them, I had many more than that number. They were extremely healthy, and ſupplied plentifully with food by the generous exertions of my friends, who, with unexampled kindneſs, ſent me freſh leaves daily, although ſome of them reſided at the diſtance of fifteen, and twenty miles from me.

About the beginning of July, the Worms had attained their full growth, and arrived at that ſtate of beautiful tranſparency which predicts their diſpoſition to ſpin: But at this criſis, a chilling north eaſt wind ſet in, and we felt a degree of cold little ſhort of ſome of the ſevere winter months. Such an uncommon ſeaſon had never been remembered here, and its baneful effects were viſibly diſplayed on my little family. All thoſe that were ready to ſpin became of ſuch an icy coldneſs, that it was ſcarcely poſſible to bear them on the hand: They made ſome feeble efforts to eject the thread from their mouths, but in vain, for they ſhrunk into their chryſalis ſtate, without being able to form even the Web, which incloſes the Cone. This was equally new and alarming to me, and I watched them with the moſt anxious attention. The principle of life was viſible in them as in the chryſalis's which had ſpun. That this change was the effect of cold, I had no doubt; but I wiſhed to diſcover how that effect was produced, and this I could only do by opening ſome of them. On examination, I found that the glutinous matter which forms the Silk, was become ſo highly congealed by the cold, that it reſembled a ſtrong tendon, both in appearance, and tenacity; whereas I had ever found it to be perfectly fluid in thoſe Worms which were employed in ſpinning.

My diſtreſs encreaſed hourly, for thouſands went off thus every day. It was ſufficiently obvious that the making of fires would remedy the evil; but they were unfortunately ſituated over a range of warehouſes, which rendered that, not only dangerous, but impoſſible. To remove ſuch numbers into the houſe, was equally impracticable; but alas! they were ſoon ſufficiently reduced for me to adopt that plan, and in one of the coldeſt days I almoſt ever felt, with the aſſiſtance of ſeveral of my friends, I removed them to their former apartment. Here I kept large and conſtant fires, and the Worms as they arrived at maturity, purſued their induſtrious occupations with alacrity.

From this you will perceive Sir, that cold, though it impedes their growth, does not eſſentially injure the Worms, until they arrive at the ſtate for ſpinning; and that then, a certain degree of heat is requiſite to render the Silk ſufficiently fluid, for them to eject it with eaſe. If I could have made fires at firſt, I am perſuaded that the dreadful havoc would have been prevented; and thoſe who rear them for profit, may readily conſtruct places, where an artificial heat may counteract the effects of an uncommon ſeaſon, and prevent ſuch a calamity.

Although the whole ſummer was with us, unuſually cold, I loſt none until the time I have mentioned: but thoſe which I preſerved, by a removal into the houſe, were comparatively few indeed! not more than five or ſix thouſand.

I well know that the generality of the world, form their opinions of the expediency of ſuch an attempt as this, by its eventual ſucceſs: But ſurely my failure may be compared to that of the poor farmer, who beholds with delight, a plenteous crop bending for the ſickle, which by a ſad reverſe, a ſucceſſion of deſcending torrents deſtroys; and who nevertheleſs renews his toil of culture, with better hopes from the ſucceeding year. True it is that in one inſtance we differ materially, for he has no ſecurity againſt another bad ſeaſon, whilſt an artificial arrangement can to me, diſtribute a ſufficient degree of warmth. The effort I made this year, if ſucceſsful, would have been final: I muſt now perſevere two or three years longer, for I have reſolved not to relinquiſh my deſign until I have obtained the quantity of Silk neceſſary for a dreſs. *This* was originally my ſole motive, but I have the pleaſure of thinking, that I have abundantly eſtabliſhed the following facts.

Firſt, That the management of the Silk Worm, is by no means difficult, the principle objection having been obviated, by the diſcovery, that they may be ſupported ſo long a time, on an indigenous plant, which may be procured in all ſituations.

Second, That our climate ſupplies a ſufficient degree of warmth to bring the Silk to the higheſt perfection, unleſs in very extraordinary ſeaſons, which may be guarded againſt by the conſtruction of fire-places.

Third, And that the profits which ariſe from the manufacturing of Silk, are immenſely advantageous, one fourth part of the price of the Silk being adjudged enough to defray the whole expenſes. I know of few circumſtances which would gratify me ſo much, as the having been the means of promoting the eſtabliſhment of a Silk Manufactory on a large ſcale.

There was a Patent granted by George the firſt, for the encouragement of one; and two thouſand Mulberry-trees, were actually planted at Chelſea for that purpoſe: how it miſcarried I have not learnt; but many of the trees, muſt certainly remain, therefore that would be the ſpot beſt calculated for the trial. For this circumſtance, I am indebted to a very ingenious Eſſay on the Silk Worm, publiſhed by Henry Barham, Eſq. in the year 1719, which abounds with the moſt uſeful information I have yet met with on the ſubject; and in which, my opinion of the prodigious profits, and certain ſucceſs, that would attend the eſtabliſhment of the Silk Manufactory in England, is moſt amply and inconteſtibly ſupported.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

HENRIETTA RHODES.

Cann Hall, Bridgnorth,
Dec. 28, 1786.

Mr MORE.

SIR,

I Have juſt now peruſed the fourth Volume of the Tranſactions of your patriotic Society, and it is with inexpreſſible ſatisfaction, I obſerve the rapid progreſs towards perfection which the Arts and Manufactures of this country are daily making under their auſpicious patronage. What I am particularly pleaſed with in the Volume I have juſt read, is, the attention ſtill continued to, and the encreaſing proofs of the practicability of the raiſing of Silk in this Iſland. The elegant letters of Miſs Henrietta Rhodes, inſerted therein, have induced me to ſend you the following remarks, together with the ſpecimen of Silk, incloſed in the ſame cover; theſe however, are by no means intended as candidates for a diſtinction ſimilar to that wherewith the letters of that ingenious young lady have been moſt deſervedly honoured by the Society, (as I am conſcious they have no pretenſions of this kind) or in the light of rivalſhip; but merely to corroborate the teſtimony there adduced, that the production of merchantable Silk from Worms fed in this Iſland, is not only practicable, but that there would be almoſt a certainty of a manufactory of that kind ſucceeding, were there a ſufficiency of proper food eaſily procurable for the Worms which produce it. That food I am confident will never be found in the leaves of any other tree, or plant, than thoſe of the Mulberry. For although Silk Worms will feed on the leaves of Lettuces, and will ſometimes ſpin their web, and go through their ſeveral metamorphoſis without any other food, when they have been accuſtomed to that from their firſt excluſion from the eggs; yet they will never thrive ſo well, become ſo large, or ſpin a web either ſo good in quality, or ſo abundant in quality, as when they have been fed during their whole exiſtence in the larva ſtate, on their natural food Mulberry-leaves. And ſuppoſing the leaves of lettuces to be an equally proper food for them, yet the great extent of land neceſſary for the growth of lettuces ſufficient for the conſumption of any conſiderable number of Worms, muſt ſurely render ineffectual every attempt to raiſe Silk upon that plan.

In the Society's ſecond Volume we have an account of a very ample reward beſtowed on a Mrs. Williams, of Graveſend, for her communications on the ſubject of Silk Worms, chiefly tending to ſhew that a ſubſtitute for Mulberry-leaves had been diſcovered. I have tried moſt of thoſe plants recommended by her, and ſeveral others, without the ſmalleſt appearance of ſucceſs. The Worms would ſometimes eat them, but whenever they did, it always proved prejudicial to them, and generally deſtructive.

In the valuable Paper ſubjoined to Mrs. Williams's Letters, written by the honourable Daines Barrington, it is hinted that a ſuccedaneum for Mulberry-leaves might be diſcovered by examining what inſects, in this country, feed upon the Mulberry, in common with other plants; preſuming from thence, if any ſhould be found, that thoſe plants would reſemble each other in their flavour and nutritive qualities. Could any inſects be found in the circumſtances before mentioned, it might poſſibly lead to ſuch a diſcovery. But your correſpondent Miſs Rhodes, has remarked (and I have myſelf noticed the ſame) that no indigenous inſect of this country preys on the leaves of the Mulberry; not even the race of *Aphides*, thoſe almoſt univerſal plunderers.

As a farther direction to a reſearch of this kind, the obſervation of Botaniſts may be adduced, that plants of the ſame natural claſs and order have a near reſemblance in their virtues and qualities. This clue would lead us to only a few plants of the native growth of this Iſland, which ſtand in the above degrees of affinity to the Mulberry: And theſe are, the Nettle, the Box-tree, the Birch-tree, and the Alder. The moſt likely of theſe I ſhould ſuſpect would be the Birch: for I have not tried either of them, neither do I recommend the experiment to others; as I think all experiments with a view to procure a ſubſtitute for the Mulberry quite unneceſſary. For what neceſſity can there be for ranging in queſt of other food, when the Mulberry-tree itſelf, the acknowledged proper and natural food of theſe inſects, will thrive and proſper in this country as well as moſt other trees. In very poor ſoils indeed they grow ſparingly. But in ſoils tolerably rich, either thoſe that are naturally ſo, or enriched by art, they vegetate with all the luxuriance that can be wiſhed. I at preſent know the owner of two Mulberry-trees, which have not been planted more than fifteen or ſixteen years from the layers, which, in my opinion, would each of them have maintained for theſe two or three years paſt, near three thouſand Worms in a ſeaſon.

The chief reaſon alledged for the neceſſity of finding out a ſubſtitute for Mulberry leaves, is, that theſe leaves are not produced early enough in this climate to become the food of the infant Worms. It is well known, that the leaves of the Mulberry-tree, ſeldom begin to unfold themſelves before the latter end of May, or the beginning of June. It is likewiſe a matter of notoriety, that thoſe few Silk Worms, which have as yet been bred in this Iſland, have moſtly been hatched by the beginning of May, or even earlier. From hence there has been ſuppoſed a neceſſity for providing ſome more early vegetating plant for their food, before the leaves of that tree are ready for them. That no ſuch neceſſity exiſts, is to me very apparent. Is it not natural to conclude, that the conſtitution of the air, reſpecting warmth, ſhould at one and the ſame time expand the leaf, and protrude the inſect which was intended by all-wiſe providence to inhabit and feed on that leaf? This, we may obſerve is the conſtant courſe of nature, with reſpect to all other inſects and their food. We have every reaſon to ſuppoſe that this is the caſe with the Silk Worms, and the Mulberry-leaves, in thoſe countries where both are indigenous: And I have not the ſhadow of a doubt that this effect would naturally and invariably obtain as well in this climate as any other, did not human imprudence interpoſe to prevent it; and art obſtruct the intention of nature. The eggs of Silk Worms, have in this country, been generally conſigned to the care of young people, and chiefly thoſe of the female ſex. They have been preſerved in Bureaus, and cheſts of drawers, in rooms where fires have been conſtantly kept during the winter ſeaſon. In the ſpring, as ſoon as the influence of the ſun began to be powerful, the eagerneſs of youthful curioſity, has cauſed them to be removed to windows, where the ſun exerted its full power: and in this ſituation they have been generally forced into exiſtence, within a few hours, in a ſeaſon, when the temperature of the air was unfit for them, and when their proper food could not be procured.

One of your late correſpondents on this ſubject, Mrs. Williams, has proved that the hatching of the eggs may be accelerated, and has averred, that it is even poſſible to hatch them in the midſt of winter: The other, Miſs Rhodes, has experienced that it may be retarded beyond the uſual time, ſince in her ſecond letter, dated the 24th of Auguſt, 1785, ſhe informs you, that her Silk Worms eggs, in that year, were not hatched until the ſecond of June, and not even then, without being placed in the ſunſhine. I have this ſeaſon retarded it longer, until the middle of June; when likewiſe it was effected, by expoſing the eggs to the vi-

vifying influence of that great ſource of life and light. There cannot then, I think, be the leaſt doubt that the eggs of Silk Worms may be hatched at almoſt any time. And I ſhould recommend it to every perſon who ſhall hereafter engage in the buſineſs of breeding theſe Worms, unleſs it be for mere amuſement, to take care that this effect does not take place until the Mulberry-tree is nearly in full leaf.

There are three reaſons which appear to me of great weight for recommending the full foliation of the Mulberry-tree, as the regulator in this matter. The firſt is, that there may be a ſufficient ſtore of their natural food ready for the young Worms, as ſoon as they come forth from the eggs, which will preclude all neceſſity for ſeeking after other food. A ſecond is, that theſe Worms being originally natives of a warm climate, may be ſure to be brought to life when the air is of a temperature congenial, and agreeable to them; ſince it is a general obſervation among gardeners, that when the Mulberry-tree begins to expand its foliage, it is a certain ſign of the near approach of fine, warm, ſettled weather. A third reaſon is, that the Mulberry-trees may be permitted to put forth a good quantity of leaves before any of them are plucked, that ſo they may not ſuffer ſo much in health from that operation, as they otherwiſe would do, and may be equal to the ſupport of a much larger ſtock of inſects. For it is certain, that the leaves are as neceſſary to the life of a vegetable, as the ſkin or the lungs are to that of an animal. If therefore moſt of the young leaves are immediately cropped off, as ſoon as they are put forth, the conſequence undoubtedly will be, that the tree will be ſo weakened and retarded in putting forth its leaves, that it will not produce near the quantity it would otherwiſe have done, and if this uſage be often repeated, will inevitably be deſtroyed. To this laſt mentioned circumſtance I impute it, that the tender heart of your fair Shropſhire correſpondent ſuffered thoſe mortifying apprehenſions which ſhe has ſo feelingly deſcribed in her firſt letter, page 150, of your late publication; and that ſo conſiderable a number as twelve large Mulberry-trees were ſcarcely adequate to the maintenance of ten thouſand Worms.

If what I have aſſerted in the beginning of this letter be a fact, that no other vegetable can ever be ſubſtituted, with advantage, as the food of Silk Worms; it will follow, that before any attempt to breed them upon an extenſive plan can ſucceed, it is abſolutely neceſſary that the

Mulberry-trees ſhould become much more numerous than they are at preſent. Of this the Society, it ſhould ſeem, have long been convinced; ſince they have, through a ſucceſſion of years, proffered rewards for increaſing their number; but hitherto, I believe without ſucceſs.

From the premiums No. 40, and 41, in the claſs of Agriculture, as they now ſtand in the laſt Volume, I was led to apprehend, that the Society had given up the matter in deſpair; and that thoſe premiums were intended to be diſcontinued. I hope my apprehenſions will prove groundleſs; and to have been occaſioned merely by typographical error.

If it would not ſubject me to the imputation of impertinence or preſumption, I would recommend it to them to multiply their premiums on this head, and to be particularly liberal in their offers.

There are three modes of raiſing Mulberry-trees, to which we are directed by Nurſery-men. The raiſing them from layers, from ſeed, and from cuttings. The chief method now in practice for thoſe few trees there is a demand for, is by layers. But this is ſuppoſed to be an inſufficient mode, where great numbers are wanting. And yet Elm-trees, which are planted in ſuch numbers in this country, are chiefly propagated by this method. The mode of raiſing them from ſeed, is not only tedious but uncertain; as the ſeed ſeldom ripens ſufficiently in this climate, and the dependance on foreign ſeeds of any kind is extremely precarious. The late premiums of the Society have reſpected only the laſt method, namely, that of raiſing them from cuttings: This would be doubtleſs, the moſt adviſeable method for raiſing a large number of trees in a ſhort time, provided the cuttings of the Mulberryberry-tree could be made to take root as readily as the cuttings of Willow, Poplar, and ſome other trees. This however is not the caſe, for with the greateſt care many of theſe cuttings will not grow, unleſs aſſiſted by artificial heat.

I have taken notice, that whenever the branches of a Fig-tree have been ſome time incloſed in the ſhreds, by which they are uſually tacked to the wall after pruning, abundance of budding roots are generally put forth. From hence I ſurmiſed, that cuttings of any trees might probably be prepared for taking root more certainly and expeditiouſly, by tying a ſhred of old woolen cloth or ſuch like ſubſtance, pretty tight round every ſhoot that is intended for a cutting, as ſoon in the ſummer as it has made any conſiderable progreſs, at the place where it iſſued from the laſt year's bud, I tried this experiment laſt ſeaſon, on ſome cuttings of the Arbor Vitæ, and the Althæa, the cuttings of which ſhrubs, are known to take root in the common method with great difficulty. And though theſe did not ſucceed agreeably to my ſanguine expectations, yet I am very unwilling to think this experiment deciſive. May not ſome ſubſtance be diſcovered which would more powerfully ſolicit the incipient roots, than that which I have tried? What would attract the moiſture of the air, and at the ſame time be void of cauſticity, or other corroding or injurious quality, I ſhould imagine would be moſt likely to have this effect, if any ſuch could be found.

Perhaps the following proffer (provided the Society's fund was equal to it; which from the very numerous and reſpectable liſt of members I have no doubt of) might have very beneficial conſequences in reſpect to this object, the ſpeedy increaſe of Mulberry-trees. To any perſon who in the year —— ſhall plant, or cauſe to be planted in any one pariſh, townſhip, or place, any number of Mulberry-trees, not leſs than fifty, of the height of three feet or upwards, in places well ſecured, and not within the diſtance of eighteen feet from each other, the ſum of five guineas; to the perſon who ſhall ſo plant, or cauſe to be planted the greateſt number, the Gold Medal in addition; to the ſecond greateſt number, the Silver Medal in addition. Claims with certificates to be ſent in immediately after planting; and other certificates to be ſent, that the plants are in a growing condition two years afterwards, when the claimants ſhould be entitled to the rewards. And any perſon to have the liberty of claiming the pecuniary part of the above premium *toties*, until the Society ſhould think fit to diſcontinue it*.

This, I ſhould think, would ſtimulate Gardeners and Nurſery-men, to raiſe great quantities of theſe trees to plant them out for people in gardens, orchards, &c. at a low price; or even, if they could not get purchaſers, to plant them gratis. The obtaining of Mulberry-trees, I look upon as the firſt and grand object. In the ſcarcity of theſe, lies the great ſtumbling-block, and whenever this ſhall be effectually removed, I am confident that the raiſing of Silk in this country, will be no difficult taſk.

The ſpecimen of Silk, herewith ſent, contains ſix ſmall ſkeins, each of them the whole length of the web (except the waſte Silk firſt taken off, and a very little

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* In the premiums offered this year, it will be ſeen what attention has been paid by the Society, to the hints given above.

left ſurrounding the Aurelias) of a dozen Worms reeled off together. The bit of paper rolled round a part of each ſkein, was ſet as a mark to find the extremities, and to prevent all entanglement. They are ſent in this detached manner, that the Society may, if they pleaſe, ſatisfy themſelves as to the length, by cauſing an actual meaſurement of each ſkein or thread to be taken. Whether either of them will equal the length of the ſpinning, meaſured by Miſs Rhodes; I much doubt. The coccoons were reeled off in hot water, wherein a little Gum Senegal, had been diſſolved. I have reaſon to think, that the young lady juſt mentioned, has been miſinformed reſpecting the gum being the criterion whereby to judge of the goodneſs of Silk; ſince I have been aſſured by a very intelligent Silk-throwſter, that the gum, ſo apparent in the bales of Silk imported from abroad, is not the natural production of the Silk-worm, but chiefly the addition of art: and that the Silk when received, is oftentimes ſo highly ſtiffened, that the workmen are obliged to diſcharge much of the gum, by diluting it in water, before they can reel the Silk off from the ſkein, or manufacture it in any way whatever. I have tried the experiment of reeling off the coccoons in boiling water; it has a good effect in diſſolving the natural gluten, which cauſes the web to part more freely; but I was never ſo fortunate as to find the lives of the inſects preſerved after paſſing through this ſevere ordeal. The moſt troubleſome office in the buſineſs of breeding Silk Worms, is the cleaning them. This in the common mode, is a tedious and diſagreeable taſk, as well as incommodious, if not injurious, to the Worms. Miſs Rhodes did not think this operation neceſſary oftener than once a week. It has appeared to me to be abſolutely neceſſary to the health of the inſects, when they are full grown, or nearly ſo, that it ſhould be performed at leaſt once a day. I have the idea of a ſimple apparatus, whereby I imagine this obſtacle will be totally removed, as well as ſome other inconveniences, which I mean to get realized before the next breeding ſeaſon. Should it pleaſe me ſo well when reduced to practice, as it does at preſent in theory, I ſhall take the liberty to ſend you either a Model or Deſcription of it.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

G. SWAYNE.

Pucklechurch, near Briſtol.
Oct. 15, 1786.

MR MORE.

IN the fourth Volume of the Society's Tranſactions, mention has been made of the Seeds of a very large kind of Hemp, having been ſent to the Society, from the Honourable Eaſt India Company, and ſome accounts given of the culture of the Plant; See Vol. 4. Page 32, &c.

Although theſe Seeds were diſtributed to many perſons, and the plants grew well, yet it does not appear that much attention has been paid to the preparing the Fibres, into a ſtate fit for the purpoſe of Manufactures, one ſample only, having been received, and that from John Wilkinſon, Eſq. of Broſeley; it is the opinion of that gentleman, that, notwithſtanding the great ſize to which this ſpecies of Hemp grows, yet, from the difficulty of ſeparating the fibrous parts, the great length of time required for ſteeping, and the uncertainty of the ſeed, when brought from ſuch a diſtance as China, growing in this climate, it will hardly ever become a matter of great national importance.

The laſt reaſon ſeems to have conſiderable weight, for the Hemp Seed, ſaid in Vol. 4. Page 242, to be preſented to the Society, by the directors of the Eaſt India Company, has been found, on repeated trials, not to be in a ſtate proper for vegetating.

Another Material, under the name of Hemp in the rough ſtate from China, has alſo been received from the Eaſt India Company; of this, trials have been made, by an experienced workman, and it appeared, by ſamples produced,

duced, that the Hemp dreſſed, the thread, the cloth and the Ropes manufactured from it, are excellent of their kinds, and if this Hemp can be imported at a price for the market, it ſeems likely to anſwer many valuable purpoſes.

Theſe Samples, which are now reſerved in the Society's Repoſitory, were ſent to the Court of Directors of the Eaſt India Company, for their inſpection; and in anſwer to the requeſt of the Society, "That the court would inform them, if they thought it not improper, at what price this kind of Hemp could be imported into England?" the following letter was received.

SIR,

S I R,

YOUR letter of the 23d of November laſt, having been laid before the Committee of Warehouſes of the Eaſt India Company, I am directed to requeſt you will be pleaſed to expreſs to the Society, the Committee's thanks for the information contained therein reſpecting the Hemp from China.

Agreeable to your requeſt, I return you the ſamples manufactured therewith, and have further to communicate, that the Company not being in poſſeſſion of the price of the ſaid Hemp in China, they have given directions to their Supra Cargos there, to furniſh that information, which when received, ſhall be tranſmitted to the Society; but I am to add, there is very little probability of its being imported into England with any advantage, owing to the very high rate of freight from China.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

THOMAS MORTON.

Eaſt India Houſe,
Jan. 3, 1787.

Mr MORE.

The many important uſes to which Hemp is applied, and the very great price of that article at preſent, render the conſideration of obtaining a proper ſupply of it, an object of the firſt importance; and in order fully to aſcertain the value of this Material from China, in our Manufactures, ſome of it has been ſent, by the Society, to a principle Manufacturer of Sail Cloth, whoſe ſentiments thereon will be laid before the public at ſome future period.